

## REMARKS

Claims 1-28 were pending in this application. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 10, 11, 19-21, 24 and 25 have been canceled without prejudice to the applicants' rights therein. Claims 3, 6-9, and 12-16 which currently stand objected to, have been amended to independent form including all of the limitations of their base claim and any intervening claims. These claims are now believed to be in condition for allowance. Claims 17, 18, 22, 23 and 26-28 have been indicated as allowable. Claims 3, 6-9, 12-18, 22, 23, and 26-28 remain pending in this application and are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of this application and indication of the allowability of all claims remaining herein at an early date are respectfully solicited.

The applicants respectfully submit that all rejections set forth in this Office Action are moot in view of the cancellation of all of the rejected claims herein without prejudice to the applicants' rights to pursue the subject matter in a continuation application.

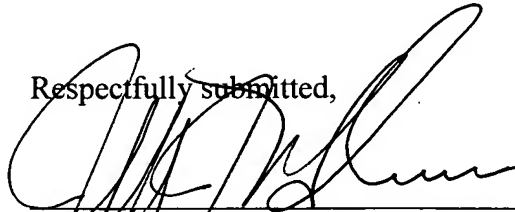
The Examiner has indicated that claims 3, 6-9 and 12-16 are merely objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but otherwise are allowable over the prior art of record. The applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration of these claims. The applicants have taken the Examiner's suggestion and have amended these claims to independent form including all of the limitations of their base claim and any intervening claims. The applicants respectfully submit that such amendment is being made merely as a matter of form, and not based on any issue regarding their patentability. As such, the applicants respectfully submit that these claims are entitled to their full scope as if they had been filed in this form originally, including the full scope of equivalents entitled to such claims. Reconsideration of claims 3, 6-9 and 12-16 and indication of their allowance at an early date are therefore respectfully solicited.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 17, 18, 22, 23 and 26-28 are allowable over the prior art of record. The applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration of these claims and the indication of their allowability.

In re Appln. Of: Zhang et al.  
Application No.: 10/051,449

If the Examiner believes that a telephonic conversation will aid in the resolution of any issues not resolved herein, the Examiner is invited to contact the applicants' attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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